



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/553,632	08/18/2006	Toshio Tohne	KAN 160NP	6039
23995 7590 08/06/2008				
RABIN & Berdo, PC				
1101 14TH STREET, NW				
SUITE 500				
WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
EXAMINER				
BITAR, NANCY				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2624				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/06/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Supplemental
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/553,632

Examiner

NANCY BITAR

Applicant(s)

TOHNE ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment after notice of allowance 07/09/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Supplemental DETAILED ACTION

Examiner Notes

1. Applicant had amended claim 17 to change “wave direction” in the filtering step to “wavelength” in order to improve the issued patent and raises no new issues .

Allowable subject matter

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: While Shaked et al (US 6,763,121) teaches the watermark system 10 can be implemented in a variety of ways and in a variety of components that are commonly found in a typical computer system. FIGS. 2(a)-2(d) illustrate block diagrams of exemplary computer systems in which the watermark system 10 of the present invention can be implemented. For example, referring to FIG. 2(a), the watermarking module 44 and the watermark recovery module 54 may both reside in a memory of a personal computer (PC) 200. The PC 200 may be coupled to an all-in-one machine 204 (e.g. a multi-function office machine) as shown. For example, the all-in-one office machine 204 can be an integrated scanner, printer, and facsimile machine that utilize a half-tone process to render images. The all-in-one machine 204 includes a print engine 208 for rendering an image by utilizing a half-tone process and a scan engine 212 for scanning documents and generating a digital version of these documents. The operation and construction of the print engine 208 and the scan engine 212 are generally well known to those of ordinary skill in the art and will not be described herein. It is noted that the print engine 208 can be any rendering engine that renders an image by utilizing a half-tone process (see column 5, lines 4-25).Yen et al

(US 2002/0180995) teaches in paragraph [0040-0051] a method of detecting information embedded for each of two or more different halftone modulations, applying a respective filter to the image to identify an ordered sequence of halftone modulations embedded in the image and a histogram number of each dither matrix specify the number of arrangement of dots to ass at each micro screen image level. None teaches arranging position of dot patterns in order for the sum of filter output value to be maximum by performing filtering process on the whole surface of the input image and by using the signal position searching template. Accordingly, even when the image is expanded or contracted due to displacement of paper, etc., the position of dot patterns can be correctly detected and confidential information can be correctly detected from the printed document.

The Examiner finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obviousness rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

3. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted on later than the payment of the issue fee and to avoid processing delays should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled, comments on statement of reasons for allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NANCY BITAR whose telephone number is (571)270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on 571-272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jingge Wu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624

Nancy Bitar

08/01/2008